

# Meeting of Congress.

The Thirty-sixth Congress met at Washington, on Monday, Mr. Allen, former Clerk, called the House to order. Two hundred and thirty-one members answered to their names. On motion the House proceeded to the election of Speaker and one ballot was had with the following result:

First Vote for Speaker stood: Sherman, 65; Boscawen, 61; Grow, 43; Butler, 14; Davis, 2; Phillips, 1; Gilmer, 3; Nelson, 3; Corwin, 1; Adams, 1; Hill, 1; Hickman, 1; Pennington, 1; Harkin, 2; McGowan, 1; and H. P. Clark, 1. Mr. Grow withdrew his name.

Before another vote was taken, the House adjourned. Mr. Clark of Mo. tried to stir up an "irrepressible conflict" by introducing Helper's work on slavery into the contest. There is no telling what the result will be, but the Republicans are confident of electing the Speaker. Mr. Sherman of Ohio will probably be the man.

In the Senate, 48 members were present. Messrs. Ten Eyck of N. J. and Hahn of Cal. were sworn in. Mason of Va. moved the appointment of a committee to inquire into the Harper's Ferry affair, with power to send for persons and papers, and transmit all said evidence to the Senate, by having the inquiry moved to the Senate, by the Border Ruffians, of the arsenal at Franklin, Missouri.

# A New Test.

It appears that a new test has been discovered by the South, by which to detect treason, and by which it is sought to make certain Republican members of Congress ineligible to the office of Speaker. A work, entitled "The Impending Crisis of the South and how to meet it," written by H. R. Helper of North Carolina, has been freely circulated late, at the North, and some members of Congress have attested to its merits. This book, it appears, is the entering wedge, which is to result in a split of the Union. It deals in facts and figures and shows the moral and physical effects of slavery upon the South and the material interests of the whole country. To read this work or in any way recommend it, is rank treason in the eyes of the South and an entire disqualification for the office of Speaker. Immediately after the first ballot was taken, on Monday, Mr. Clark of Mo. arose and offered the following:

Whereas, as certain members of this House are now in violation of the law herein enacted and recommended the book herein named; therefore,

Resolved, That the doctrines and sentiments of a certain book called the "Impending Crisis of the South and how to meet it," purporting to have been written by H. R. Helper, are incendiary and hostile to the domestic peace and tranquility of the country, and that no member of this House who recommended or endorsed it or the contents is fit to be Speaker of the House.

# Interference.

The South has become reduced to such a state of imbecility, both mental and physical, by her blind devotion to the "peculiar institution," that she is utterly unable to take care of herself and now she is demanding an act of Congress for the special protection of her citizens from insurrection and invasion. That system, to which she clings so tenaciously, has stifled all her energies and rendered her powerless to protect herself. What a comment upon Southern society! If the South are not able to take care of themselves now, what would become of them in case of a dissolution of the Union! As it is, they are public paupers, living and feeding off the North.

# Virginia Punishment.

It is said that a bill will be introduced into Congress, at an early day, to pay out of the public treasury, the expenses attending the Harper's Ferry and the subsequent trial and execution of the prisoners—to defray the expenses of the militia, to pay for the loss of property and particularly the loss of the old man, whose property, in approaching the sentinel without giving the countersign, cost her her life. How would the people of Ohio like to be taxed for the rope that hung Old Brown!

# Death of Washington Irving.

This truly great man died at his residence, on the Hudson, on Tuesday last week in the 76th year of his age. No death has occurred during the present year, which will be more universally mourned, not only in this, but in other countries. His fame is world wide, and wherever known, he is admired and loved. His position as a writer was in the front rank of the age. His memory will endure as long as the language in which his literary efforts are preserved.

# Ohio for Douglas.

So far as we can ascertain, with few exceptions, Douglas delegates have been chosen from this state to the Charleston Convention. The hired tools of the Administration have been at work, but without avail. Who is there in Ohio to mourn for Old Buck? Only a few office holders. The party, in its extremity, looks to Douglas as the Moses, who is to lead them out of the wilderness. Poor deluded creatures, to think that Douglas can save them!

# Old Brown is Dead!

Virginia has got the breath out of him at last, but it took the whole state to do it. The old hag will probably not survive the shock. "It was too much for her weak and shattered nerves to bear." Gov. Wise has made and written the poor old thing, until she can hardly stand alone. "Ric-tran-sil, Old Virginia!"

A letter from the physician of the Utica Asylum, dated Nov. 29, states that Gerrit Smith was greatly improved, and is now quite himself.

# The "Irrepressible Conflict" Program—Program of the Southern Fire Eaters.

The New York Herald's Washington correspondent says, the following programme has been determined upon and will receive the support of prominent Southern men, both in and out of Congress:

First—"That in view of the Harper's Ferry Abolition invasion, and its extensive and alarming ramifications; and in view of the sympathies of the abolitionists and Republicans, in view of the initial steps for an independent Southern Confederacy."

Second—"That in default of some such Congressional protection, the Southern members of both Houses shall withdraw from Washington, and meet in a body in Richmond, Virginia, or some other convenient place, in view of the initial steps for an independent Southern Confederacy."

In anticipation of this alternative, I am further advised that the Southern Congressional meeting, in Richmond or elsewhere, will proceed to put the South in a proper position before the great Western Powers of Europe, including a programme of commercial treaties on a purely Southern basis, that can hardly fail to attract the sympathies of Great Britain, France, Prussia, Austria, and the Southern States, including Southern Italy."

Let the South attempt to carry out this programme, if they dare! The North will never submit to any such humiliating terms. If the slave states prefer a passage outside the Union, we say, for God's sake, let them have it! Let them be accommodated! Open wide the back door and let them have a free passage, by all means!

# Boa Alfred Kelly, of Columbus.

Boa Alfred Kelly, of Columbus, died last Friday morning, in his 71st year. He was a man of strong character and decided opinions, and a representative man of the old Bank and Tariff Whig party. His connection with financial business and with the Tax Laws of Ohio rendered him widely known, and he had the reputation of a shrewd and successful manager. Nervous, energetic and inflexible, he pursued his aims with rare constancy, and continued an active and alert politician at an age when most men are laid on the shelf.

# Down on the Clergy.

The editor of the Advertiser undertakes to read the clergy a lecture and define their duties, both in and out of the pulpit. Wonder if he has ever read the fable of "the goat on the ox's horn!"

# ILLINOIS TOWN ELECTIONS.

The Republicans have carried forty-six counties, the Democrats fifty, and in six there was no party contest. Of these latter counties, DuPage is always Republican, and Fayette and Pike always Democratic; Madison, Tazewell and Wabash are debatable ground. The voting population of the forty six Republican counties exceeds that of the fifty Democratic counties by about 5,000.

# FIRE IN CANTON, OHIO.

A fire broke out in the St. Cl. Hotel stables in Canton on the morning of the 26th ult., and spread with great rapidity to the adjoining buildings—burning the hotel and furniture, and a number of other houses and stores. The loss on the St. Cl. Hotel was \$15,000; insurance \$7,500. The other losses were about \$20,000, on which there was an insurance of about \$3,000.

# A Good Hit—Shawhan says it.

A good hit—Shawhan says it. It is asserted that the cow which created a panic among the Virginia military at Harper's Ferry, and which was shot by a company of soldiers, was a Pennsylvania animal. She had two powder horns on her head, and she had been late learning among the negroes.

# A dispatch to the New York Tribune.

A dispatch to the New York Tribune, from Charleston, dated Nov. 30, says: "Mr. Egerton, Member of Congress from Ohio, came here Monday afternoon with a petition from Brown's son, for the death of his father. This was peremptorily refused, and two hours later Mr. Egerton went out of town in an open wagon, guarded by four of the Black Horse Rangers."

# Resolutions are now pending in the South Carolina Legislature.

Resolutions are now pending in the South Carolina Legislature, declaring that South Carolina is ready to enter, together with the other slave-holding States into the formation of a Southern Confederacy, and consequently of a dissolution of the Union.

# The Attorney General of Virginia has written a letter to Gov. Wise.

The Attorney General of Virginia has written a letter to Gov. Wise, urging the enforcement of the law against Postmasters who distribute incendiary documents—that is, Republican newspapers. The penalty is a fine of \$500.

# A girl living in the Mansion House, in Mansfield, threw her infant into a well at the American House, in Jeronville, Ashland county.

A girl living in the Mansion House, in Mansfield, threw her infant into a well at the American House, in Jeronville, Ashland county. She was arrested but managed to elude the officers.

# A few days since a widow lady of Xenia, whose character had suffered from vile anonymous letters, discovered the author, and cowbird him fearfully, in the presence of a large and delighted circle of friends.

# When we, the people of Ohio, look at the awful state of society in Virginia and the terrible excitement to which their fears subject them, we ought to thank God that we live in a free state.

# The Charleston Mercury publishes a communication, five columns long, in eight parts, setting forth the advantages of a Gulf Confederacy, with New Orleans or Mobile as the capital.

As old John is called Oakeshott Brown a correspondent of the Evening Post suggests that Old Wise should be called What-an-ess-ame Wise.

# From the Eliza Democrat, of the 30th ult., we learn that small-pox is prevailing in various localities around Elyria.

# The Kansas election, for state officers under the new Constitution, took place on Tuesday last.

The report of the death of Kit Carson is believed to be incorrect.

# Fernando Wood has probably been elected Mayor of New York city.

# The Execution of Brown.

Interesting Details—Last Interview of Brown and his Wife.

Notwithstanding it was given out with much unbelief by the press, that newspaper reporters would be excluded from Charleston on the day of Brown's execution, a number of these ubiquitous individuals, representing presses in different sections of the country, were finally permitted, at the last hour, under military escort to take a place within about one hundred yards of the gallows. Among the number was a reporter from the Cincinnati Gazette, who has communicated to that paper many particulars which are doubtless interesting to the general reader. From this account we make copious extracts. After detailing the military maneuvers previous to the execution, and the disposition of the different armed companies, the reporter says:

A furniture wagon was driven in front of the jail, and the military formed around it. Brown was then escorted from his room.

He was dressed in a black suit, much worn, the same he had on when he made the attack on the Ferry. He wore a sash, a sword, and red-colored stockings. His arms had been pinioned, and he marched out with a firm step and upright head. He was assisted into the wagon, and took a seat on his coffin.

The train then proceeded to the scene of execution. The military escort was large as soon as the coffin was placed, and nothing was to be heard save the slow-moored tread of the military, and the rumbling of the wheels of the wagon which was conveying Brown to his death.

Following the military were about a hundred men, and the command brought to a halt. In a few minutes it was again started, and proceeded to the gallows. The wagon was stopped a few yards from the gallows, and the military formed around it. Brown was then escorted from the wagon, and immediately started for the scaffold. On one side was the sheriff, on the other one of his deputies.

Brown ascended the steps with a cheerful look, firm, undisturbed step, and an unblinking eye. Not an exhibition of fear was given. There was no evidence of a consciousness of the terrible tragedy scene which was about to take place, and in which he was to take the place of a criminal. He walked to the gallows with a firm step, and the military which accompanied him filed to the right and left, and took the positions which had been previously assigned them. Brown looked at the crowd, then glanced at the scaffold. The deputy sheriff stepped forward, and took Brown's arm, and shaking it, bade him farewell.

No ministers were present, owing to the fact that Brown had refused their offers. The sheriff approached him, shook his hand, and bade him farewell. Brown stepped forward, and when the deputy sheriff lifted his legs, while the sheriff drew the white cap over his head, and placed the fatal rope about his neck. As soon as this was done, Brown remarked to the sheriff, "I have no more to say to you. I am ready to die." The sheriff asked, "Capt. Brown, have you anything to say?" To which he replied "Nothing."

He then said, "I am ready to die, and I am ready to die." The sheriff asked, "Will you take a handkerchief and use it as a signal, letting it fall when you are ready?" To which he replied, "Yes."

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